

CHAPTER V

ECONOMY

Knowledge about the present economy of Jackson County is important to the present and future citizens of the county. In order for the county to grow, the economy of the county must be continually strengthened. Without a strong economy, the county could experience a decline in population. The young people must be given adequate employment opportunities to entice them to remain in the county. Adequate job opportunities are attracted in part by a suitable labor force, either existing or potential. It therefore becomes necessary to keep abreast of population and economic trends in the county.

This section of the Population and Economy report will deal with analyzing the economic situation of the county. Sections will be included relating to employment, income, business data, manufacturing and farming information. Commuting patterns for the county will also be reviewed.

EMPLOYMENT

It is generally acknowledged that the supply of labor is an important factor in determining the economic well-being of a given area. Table 12 compares certain economic characteristics of Jackson and surrounding counties. In 1970 the county experienced the lowest percentage of unemployed workers (4.5%) in comparison with its neighboring counties. Table 12 also indicates that employed persons were evenly distributed among manufacturing industries, white collar workers, and government employees.

The most distressing fact pointed out by Table 12 is that 1,698 workers or 22.1 percent of the labor force went outside the county for their place of employment. The county only drew 393 workers into the county for a net loss of 1,305 workers to other counties (Table 13). The loss of workers in